

I think that—in a larger sense, what I would like China to know, and what I believe, is that both the United States and Japan would like to have a 21st century in which we work together and cooperate and there is no fighting. The three of us, together, could do great things in the Asia/Pacific region. We also, however, would like to be together based on shared values. And I think that is important for me. I worked very hard to convince President Jiang Zemin of that, Premier Zhu, and the people of China when I was there.

China is a very great country, and there need not be that sort of conflict over this issue. And I think that our strong defense cooperation—Japan and the United States—should not in any way be seen as directed against China. It is in favor of advancing both the security interests of our two countries and the values we embrace.

And we hope—I'll let the Prime Minister speak for himself—but I think I'm quite sure in saying that both of us hope that our successors in the 21st century will see China as a great partner, and the three of us will be working together for peace and stability, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia/Pacific region.

**Prime Minister Obuchi.** Well, I believe the question wasn't directed to me, but—well, I believe with regard to the new defense cooperation guidelines, this is to more steeply and effectively put in operation the Japan-U.S. security treaty, and this certainly would further strengthen the ties between Japan and the United States. Should the relevant bills pass the upper house as well, before long, then I believe the Japan-U.S. relationship will become even more firm.

Thank you very much.

**President Clinton.** Thank you very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 174th news conference began at 3:10 p.m. in Presidential Hall (formerly Room 450) in the Old Executive Office Building. Prime Minister Obuchi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, the President referred to the three U.S. infantrymen released from custody in Serbia: Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, USA, Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, USA, and Specialist Steven M. Gonzales, USA, and civil rights leader Jesse Jack-

son, whose personal appeal won their release; President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia; President Boris Yeltsin and Special Envoy and former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia; and President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji of China. A reporter referred to Secretary General Javier Solana of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

### **Statement on the Tourist Boat Tragedy in Hot Springs, Arkansas**

*May 3, 1999*

Hillary and I were heartbroken to hear this weekend of the 13 people killed when a tourist boat sank in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas. I know Lake Hamilton well, and I am terribly saddened that this beautiful lake has become the site of such a tragedy. I commend all those Hot Springs residents who worked courageously to save lives in the moments after the sinking. Hillary and I send our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies to all those families mourning their loved ones. As it is written in the Bible, God "will not in any way fail you, nor give you up, nor leave you without support."

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia**

*May 3, 1999*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 3, 1999.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on the  
National Emergency With Respect  
to Sudan**

*May 3, 1999*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 3, 1999.

**Remarks at a Dinner Honoring  
Prime Minister Obuchi**

*May 3, 1999*

Ladies and gentlemen, Prime Minister and Mrs. Obuchi, members of the Japanese delegation, and all our distinguished guests. It's a great pleasure for Hillary and for me to return the hospitality that the Prime Minister extended to me when I visited Japan last November.

In 1963, as a high school student, I first came to this house. There I heard President Kennedy challenge a group of us to make the world a better place. A year earlier a young Japanese graduate student walked straight into the office of Attorney General Robert Kennedy and asked for a meeting. He left a letter, saying he was deeply impressed by a speech Kennedy had given at Waseda University.

Keizo Obuchi apparently made his own impression, because a week later he got his meeting with Robert Kennedy. He has said often since then that that meeting helped kindle within him a desire for public service. I understand, Mr. Prime Minister, that the Attorney General's graciousness also impressed you. We see it today reflected in your own decency and generosity.

I treasure the Bonsai tree you gave me last year, a tree you tended yourself. I was honored when you presented me with *sake* that came from His Majesty, the Emperor. And you were kind enough to write this warning: Be careful, because overall, *sake* will result in dancing and singing. [*Laughter*]

Well, many people were dancing and singing with or without *sake*, when this year the young Japanese filmmaker Keiko Ibi won an Academy Award for her film on the lives of elderly New Yorkers. Her acceptance speech pointed to the possibilities for understanding and friendship between people of different cultures.

That spirit is more important than ever today, as the world community works to end the ethnic and religious cleansing in Kosovo. I am grateful to Japan for supporting NATO's efforts and for its aid to refugees in frontline states—part of Japan's broader commitment to relieve human suffering and support peace and freedom around the world. You have helped survivors of Central America's hurricanes, supported the peace process in the Middle East, promoted democracy in Indonesia and stability on the Korean Peninsula, ratifying the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, fighting deadly disease in Africa, protecting endangered forests and oceans. Japan truly is a world leader for all that is best in humanity.

The whole world looks to Japan—and to you, Mr. Prime Minister—for that kind of leadership. And we are pulling for you and working with you for economic policies to lift the lives of Japan's citizens, as well as the people in your region.

We share the same dreams for a better future. We are united in an alliance of fundamental importance to peace and freedom. As I said to you in Tokyo, all is possible when our countries join hands.

I ask all of you to join me in a toast to the Prime Minister, to Mrs. Obuchi, and to the people of Japan.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:05 p.m. in the pavilion on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Obuchi's wife, Chizuko. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Obuchi.